

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LAUREN MINTO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Lauren Minto, who has been with the Subcommittee for over a year. Before her detail with the Committee, Ms. Minto served the United States Army Corps of Engineers as Legal Clerk and Assistant District Counsel at the Corps' Louisville Office of Counsel for over six years. There, she supported the implementation and regulation of Corps projects funded through the appropriations process. Reviewing legislative language, responding to Congressional requests, and evaluating policy compliance, Ms. Minto developed a strong understanding of the relationship between Congressional legislation and on-site execution as well as a unique level of legal expertise required to facilitate the process.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Ms. Minto quickly became an invaluable member of the Committee staff when she joined the team in February 2008. Her in-depth knowledge of the legal implications of bill language and policy compliance, as well as her technical experience with the Corps' civil works projects, made her an indispensable addition to the staff. A remarkably fast learner and tireless worker, Ms. Minto quickly mastered the responsibilities assigned to her. Her refined analytical skills and exceptional attention to detail have been critical to our success in reviewing requests, synthesizing disparate information, and, ultimately, producing the bills and reports for the fiscal year 2009 and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Perhaps her most noteworthy contribution, however, has been to the development of the Energy and Water Subcommittee's Member Request Database. A relatively new system, the database is meant to facilitate the review and processing of requests made to the Subcommittee. Ms. Minto had the unfortunate experience of being one of the first to deal with the system. In her typically tireless way, she not only overcame any of the unforeseen obstacles, but took an active role in updating and reforming the database. Working closely with our IT department, Ms. Minto made targeted suggestions to perfect the system and, because of her work, our jobs, and those of future staff members will be easier. Indeed, Members' offices have expressed their appreciation for the standardized system of authorized projects that are now generated automatically. Ms. Minto's efforts have led to more reliable, accurate requests and more transparency. This has enabled Members to focus more on the policy behind the earmarks and less on the technical aspects of entering requests.

For these innovations, and for her overall diligence, ingenuity, and consistently positive

attitude over the past year, all of us at the Energy and Water Subcommittee would like to thank her. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors, and are confident that she will go on to do great things.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HENRY  
DAVID PRENSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. David Prenskey—a profoundly respected and admired activist, lecturer and classical music enthusiast.

Dr. Prenskey was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1917, to a mother who encouraged him to study piano and from whom he inherited his love of classical music. Dr. Prenskey attended dental school and served as a ship's dentist for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his service in the Navy, he found a way to integrate his profession and his love of classical music through his dental practices in Miami, Florida and Mexico City, Mexico by playing classical music to relax his patients. In 1954, he married fellow art enthusiast Bryna Prenskey, who opened her own art gallery featuring Contemporary Mexican Art.

Dr. Prenskey dedicated his time to supporting local art programs, education and was an active member in the local Democratic Party. He shared his love of classical music with audiences around Palm Beach, Florida as a lecturer for the Society of the Four Arts and Regional Arts, the Etta Res Institute of New Dimensions at Palm Beach Community College, as well as for the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. He was integral in the advancement of the Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and dedicated his time to developing the schools' art and music libraries, scholarships and foundation. In honor of his commitment to the school, the orchestra rehearsal hall bears his name. In addition to Dr. Prenskey's dedication to the advancement of the arts, he was an avid activist for universal health care and founded Floridians for Health Care. Additionally, he co-founded the local Palm Beach Democratic Club. Although it has been almost a year since his passing, Dr. Prenskey's ability to mobilize the community and advocate for the social welfare of others continues to be evident to all those who have been touched by his efforts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Dr. Henry David Prenskey and in honor of his outstanding achievements in the advancement of arts education and health care.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOL-  
UNTEERISM AND EDUCATION  
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, President Obama has set high goals for this nation to improve public education, combat climate change, extend quality affordable health care to all Americans, and honor our veterans. I believe renewing our nation's commitment to service will be the vehicle through which we meet these challenges.

Under the leadership of Chairman MILLER and Subcommittee Chair, Congresswoman MCCARTHY, the GIVE Act (H.R. 1388) answers the President's call to service, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Chair, very important to me as a veteran of the Army Reserves and the veterans' community is a provision I worked to secure in the GIVE Act that establishes a Veterans' Corps.

Last Congress when we considered legislation similar to H. R. 1388, I offered an amendment to create a grant program to enhance service opportunities for veterans and military families. The GIVE Act builds upon this effort by establishing a separate Veterans' Corps.

As more and more troops return from Iraq and Afghanistan, fulfilling our promise to them will be an even greater challenge and priority for our nation. Through the Veterans' Corps we can recruit and mobilize veterans into service projects that provide educational and economic opportunities, job training, mentoring and outreach to other veterans.

Mr. Chair, our nation's veterans have already demonstrated a profound commitment to service. The Veterans' Corps aims to harness that spirit and in the process give back to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I would like to acknowledge the work of my friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES of Maryland. Together, we introduced H.R. 1401, the VET Corps Act, which was the foundation for the Veterans' Corps in the GIVE Act.

I ask my colleagues to vote yes on the GIVE Act.

HONORING GLORIA MENDOZA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Gloria Mendoza has dedicated her life to education, starting as a kindergarten teacher and advancing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.